

## EXTENDING THE TIME IN WHICH THE BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION SHALL COMPLETE ITS WORK

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JULY 21, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 4524]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4524) extending the time in which the Boston National Historic Sites Commission shall complete its work, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

## PURPOSE

H.R. 4524 extends for 1 year from June 16, 1959, the life of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission and increment the limitation on appropriations for the work of the Commission from \$60,000 to \$80,000.

## NEED

The Commission was created by the act of June 16, 1955 (69 Stat. 136). Its objective is to complete a study of the role that the Federal Government, local governmental bodies, and private historical associations could undertake regarding the preservation of historic objects, sties, and buildings in Boston and the vicinity related to the Colonial and Revolutionary periods.

Although the Commission's life was extended for 1 year by the act of July 3, 1958 (72 Stat. 296), its report has not yet been completed. The Department of the Interior representatives testified that the Commission had underestimated the time requirements for the study of certain details such as individual property boundaries and appraisals of real estate costs.

The scope of the Commission's study and its status is explained in a report transmitted by the Commission to the Secretary of the In-

terior on December 18, 1958, and transmitted by him to the Congress on January 20, 1959. This report has been printed as House Document 57, 86th Congress.

Specifically, additional time and money are needed to complete the study of more than 20 outstanding properties related to the Lexington-Concord Battle Road along which occurred nationally significant events that marked the opening of the War of the American Revolution.

#### COST

The request is for an additional \$20,000 which would be authorized to be appropriated by this measure.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

The report of the Department of the Interior recommending the enactment of H.R. 4524 follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D.C., May 7, 1959.

Hon. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. ASPINALL: Your committee has requested a report on H.R. 4524, a bill extending the time in which the Boston National Historic Sites Commission shall complete its work.

We recommend the enactment of H.R. 4524.

The purpose of this legislation is to extend for 1 year the life of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission, and to authorize the increase of the monetary limitation heretofore placed on the work of the Commission from \$60,000 to \$80,000.

The act of June 16, 1955 (69 Stat. 136), created the Boston National Historic Sites Commission and authorized it to undertake a study of historic objects, sites, and buildings in Boston, and the general vicinity related to the colonial and Revolutionary periods. The study is being made for the purpose of ascertaining the role that the Federal Government, local governmental bodies, and private historical associations should undertake regarding the future preservation of these properties. The life of the Commission was extended to June 16, 1959, by the act of July 3, 1958 (72 Stat. 296).

Substantial evidence of the scope of the Commission's task has been furnished in a special interim report transmitted by the Commission to the Secretary of the Interior, December 18, 1958, and transmitted by him to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House on January 20, 1959. This interim report was discussed more fully in our report to your committee on H.R. 1932, a bill to provide for the establishment of Minute Man National Historical Park in Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

The preparation of this report demanded an intensive study of the many comprehensive and complex problems relating to the Lexington-Concord Battle Road along which occurred nationally significant events that marked the opening of the War of the American Revolution on April 18 and 19, 1775.

In addition to the investigations of historic properties, the work in connection with this report has also involved the determinations of individual property boundaries, appraisals of real estate costs and other factors of time and expense not fully anticipated as the basis for the Commission's recommendations, which include the specific proposal to establish a national historical park. As a result, completion of the Commission's studies of important historical preservation problems in the municipality of Boston itself and in outlying environs other than the Lexington-Concord area has been delayed.

It will, therefore, require another year to complete the inventory and analysis of the more than 20 outstanding properties or groups of properties included in the Colonial and Revolutionary periods that have already been adjudged worthy of further consideration by the Commission. In addition to that, it will be necessary to ascertain and recommend an adequate historical marking program for sites where original structures no longer exist; and, generally, to prepare recommendations for the promotion of public visitation and understanding of historic sites and structures whether preserved by the agencies of the Federal Government, or State or local governments, or by private associations or societies.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ERNST,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends enactment of H.R. 4524.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as introduced, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

#### ACT OF JUNE 16, 1955 (69 STAT. 136), AS AMENDED

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SEC. 4. The Commission shall (a) make an inventory and study of the historic objects, sites, buildings, and other historic properties of Boston, and the general vicinity thereof, including comparative real estate costs; (b) prepare an analysis of the existing condition and state of care of such properties; (c) recommend such programs by the local, State, or Federal governments and cooperating societies for the future preservation, public use, and appreciation of such properties as the Commission shall consider to be in the public interest; and (d) prepare a report containing basic factual information relating to the foregoing and the recommendations of the Commission thereon. Such report shall be transmitted to the Congress by the Secretary of the Interior within [four] *five* years following the approval of this Act and the securing of appropriations for purposes hereof. Upon

submission of the report to the Congress, the Commission shall cease to exist.

SEC. 5. (a) The Secretary of the Interior may appoint and fix the compensation, in accordance with the provisions of the civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, of such experts, advisers, and other employees, and may make such expenditures, including expenditures for actual travel and subsistence expense of members, employees, and witnesses (not exceeding \$15 for subsistence expense for any one person for any one calendar day), for personal services at the seat of government and elsewhere, and for printing and binding, as are necessary for the efficient execution of the functions, powers, and duties of the Commission under this Act. The Commission is authorized to utilize voluntary and uncompensated services for the purposes of this Act. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~["\$60,000"]~~ \$80,000, to carry out the provisions of this Act, including printing and binding.

(b) The Commission shall have the same privilege of free transmission of official mail matters as is granted by law to officers of the United States Government.

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